WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

WHO assistance to control AIDS

*123. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the Indian Express dated 25th October, 1986, wherein it has been stated that the World Health Organisation (WHO) has expressed its concern at the continuing spread of AIDS in the World;

(b) if so where the WHO has offered any assistance to India to control the disease; and

(c) what steps Government have since taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (c) The Government has seen the news item published in the Indian Express dated 25-10-1986. Assistance has been received from W.H.O. in organising training programmes, in the serological diagnosis of infection and for procurement of ELISA Test Kits, ELISA Equipment package and Western Blot Test Kits. Uptil now 211 ELISA Test Kits and 30 sets of equipment have been supplied by the W.H.O.

The following measures/steps have been taken under the AIDS Control Programme:—

1. 19 diagnosis centres for detection of AIDS have been set up. In addition, 4 referral centres where higher level diagnostic facilities for AIDS are available, have been established in the country.

2. Restrictions have been imposed for import of blood and blood products without AIDS Clearance Certificate.

3. All the blood banks have been instructed to screen the professional blood donors.

4. All the State Health authorities/hospitals/STD Clinics have been alerted to look for AIDS cases.

5. All the State Health authorities have been advised to ensure strict sterilisation practices in hospitals and clinics or to use pre-sterilised disposable syringes and needles as far as possible.

6. Guidelines have been sent to all the State Health authorities for health care personnel.

7. All the mass media channels have been involved in educating the people on AIDS, its nature, transmission and prevention.

8. Instructions/guidelines to the State/Union Terirtory health authorities have been issued for medical examination including that for AIDS for foreign students being admitted to Indian Universities.

Rajdhani Express between Bangalore and New Delhi

*127. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to introduce Rajdhani Express between Bangalore and New Delhi;

(b) whether Government have received any representations from the people of the State of Karnataka or the Karnataka State Government in this regard;

(c) whether any study has been conducted in this regard, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

(d) Introduction of a Rajdhani Express between Bangalore and New Delhi to supplement the existing services will require heavy investments on upgradation of track, signalling etc.

Flying clubs

*128. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government's attention has been drawn to the 'Analysis' published in the Hindustan Times on September 16, 1986, regarding the deteriorating condition of the flying clubs' in the country; and

(b) If so, what is Government's reaction thereto and the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the condition of the flying clubs so as to save as assured feeder channels for India's aviation services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). It would not be correct to state that the condition of all the Flying Clubs in the country is deteriorating. A few Flying Clubs, no doubt face financial difficulties and problems of non-availability and unserviceability of trainer aircraft as well as inadequate availability of suitably qualified and experienced Instructors.

Taking into consideration the escalation in the cost of flying operations, the Government has recently raised the rate of subvention to flying clubs from Rs. 240/- to Rs. 294/- per hour.

The Aero Club of India has also been given a grant-in-aid for the acquisition of trainer aircraft and accessories to be allocated to various Flying Clubs in the country.

For imparting training to commercial pilots, the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi is being established at Fursatganj in Uttar Pradesh as a centre of excellence in flying. The Akademi is expected to provide feedstock to meet the requirement of pilots for the aviation services in the country.

Combination of Phenylbutazone and Oxyphenbutazone

*129. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have restricted the use of Phenylbutazone and Oxyphenbutazone and their combinations;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these drugs are easily available over the counter in multifarious combinations;

(c) whether it is a fact that such combinations lead to side effects like Gastro-intestinal perforation, activation of peptic ulcers, Hypothyroidism, toxic hepatitis etc; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir.